# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

COXCOM, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

C.A. No. 06-721-GMS

REMBRANDT TECHNOLOGIES, L.P.,

Defendant.

# PLAINTIFF COXCOM, INC.'S REPLY BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF ITS MOTION TO ENJOIN DEFENDANT FROM PROCEEDING WITH THE TEXAS ACTION

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March 12, 2007

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

This is plaintiff CoxCom's Reply Brief in support of its motion to enjoin Rembrandt from proceeding with the Texas Action (D.I. 12).

#### **ARGUMENT**

### I. THE FIRST-FILED RULE DOES APPLY.

A. The First-Filed Rule Does Not Require Exactly The Same Patents And Parties.

Arguing against "rigid mechanical" application of the first-filed rule (D.I. 15 at 13-14), Rembrandt argues that the rule does not apply here because the parties and patents in this action do not match exactly the parties and patents in the Texas Action (*id.* at 14-15.) Rembrandt is mistaken.

Rembrandt cites *APV North Am., Inc. v. Sig Simonazzi N. Am., Inc.*, 295 F. Supp. 2d 393 (D. Del. 2002), for the proposition that this Court requires exactly the same parties and patents in the parallel case before applying the first-filed rule. That is not the holding (or even the dicta) of *APV North America*. The Court in that case held that the first-filed rule did not apply because the second-filed action "involved different technologies and thus, different facts." *Id.* at 397 (citing *Filler v. Lernout*, No. 01-191-SLR, 2001 WL 227079, at \*2 (D. Del. Feb. 8, 2002) (holding that additional claims do not render an action "different" for purposes of the first-filed rule)).

Rembrandt also cites *Bayer Bioscience N.V. v. Monsanto Co.*, No. 03-023-GMS, 2003 WL 1565864 (D. Del. Mar. 25, 2003), for the same proposition -- "the first-filed rule is only applicable where the two cases involve the 'same claims'" (D.I. 15 at 15). Again, that is not CoxCom's understanding of the holding of *Bayer* (or the law). Although Rembrandt is correct

that the two actions in Bayer involved the same patents, the decision in Bayer did not state that this was a requirement for application of the first-filed rule. See 2003 WL 1565864, at \*1.

This action and the Texas Action involve the same parties (CoxCom and Rembrandt), the same accused activity (providing high-speed internet services), the same accused industry standard (DOCSIS), and at least one of the same patents (the '903 Patent). Moreover, in this action and the Texas Action, all of the patents are directed to the same functionality, operability, and communications step. Specifically, the patents are directed to facilitating communications between a modem, a receiver, and a controller, and to providing high speed internet access through the cable system with cable modems communicating with head-ends. As a result, this Court will be required to resolve the same or substantially similar issues to address the invalidity and non-infringement of the '903 Patent, as those to be addressed for the patents at issue in the Texas Action.

#### Filing On The Same Day Does Not Prevent Application Of В. The First-Filed Rule.

Citing Bayer, Rembrandt argues that the first-filed rule does not apply if the second-filed action was filed on the same day as the first-filed action (D.I. 15 at 14). That is incorrect. Although Bayer did transfer the first-filed action, the transfer was not based on the fact that the first-filed action was filed only a few hours before the second-filed action. 2003 WL 1565864, at \*1 ("[T]his court does not dispute that this action is first-filed . . . ."). The motion to transfer was granted because the court determined that "on balance the litigation would more

Rembrandt attempts to make much out of the fact that the Texas Action includes an The claims asserted against Charter, however, are additional party -- Charter. independent of the claims asserted against CoxCom. Charter's activities are not related to CoxCom's activities or to whether CoxCom has infringed Rembrandt's patents, and vice versa. This is not a case in which the additional party is a related entity or the parties were involved in the same transactions and occurrences.

conveniently proceed and the interests of justice be better served by transfer to a different forum." 2003 WL 1565864, at \*2. The Court transferred the first-filed case to the District of Missouri, where the parties had been litigating *related* patents for *two years*. *Id.* at \*1-2.

Moreover, the Federal Circuit has not held that the first-filed rule only applies when the cases are filed on different days. In fact, to the contrary, in *Laboratory Corp. of America Holdings v. Chiron Corp.*, 384 F.3d 1326, 1327 (Fed. Cir. 2004), the Federal Circuit affirmed a district court's order staying a second-filed, infringement action that was *filed four and one half hours* after a declaratory judgment action.

## II. ENJOINING REMBRANDT FROM PROCEEDING WITH THE TEXAS ACTION WILL NOT PREJUDICE REMBRANDT.

Granting CoxCom's motion to enjoin will result in no more piecemeal or duplicative litigation than already exists as a result of Rembrandt's own litigation strategy. Rembrandt has initiated eight actions against twenty-two defendants (grouped into five corporate defendant groups as: Comcast, Time Warner, Charter Communications, CoxCom and Cablevision) in three judicial districts (District of Delaware, Eastern District of Texas, and Southern District of New York), asserting claims of infringement based on the defendants' implementation of an industry standard (DOCSIS) in providing high speed internet service. Of these eight actions, six of them are against the same defendants. That is, rather than combining the claims against one defendant in one complaint, Rembrandt, in separate actions, voluntarily chose to sue Comcast, Time Warner, Charter Communications, and CoxCom twice with each action accusing the same activity and same industry standard. Given its own strategy, Rembrandt's contention that granting CoxCom's motion will prejudice Rembrandt is misplaced.

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Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 is a list of the actions Rembrandt has filed, asserting that the defendants' provision of high speed internet service through DOCSIS compliant equipment infringes its patents.

Indeed, this Court is already presiding over an action filed by Rembrandt against a cable service provider that involves the '903 Patent, the same accused activity (provision of high speed internet service) and the same industry standard (DOCSIS). See Rembrandt Technologies LP v. Cablevision Systems Corporation, et al., C.A. No. 06-635-GMS (D. Del.). Thus, enjoining Rembrandt from prosecuting its later-filed claims against CoxCom in the Texas Action does not create duplication. Rembrandt's own actions have already caused duplication.

Finally, simply because this case is pending in this forum does not mean that the parties cannot or will not coordinate efforts with respect to the rest of the Rembrandt litigation. In fact, at a recent hearing in Rembrandt Technologies LP v. Adelphia Communications Corp., No. 1:07-cv-214 (S.D.N.Y. Bankr.), counsel for Rembrandt stated that he believed coordination among the parties and courts was desirable (Ex. 2 at 13).<sup>3</sup>

### **CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons and those stated in CoxCom's Opening Brief, the Court should enjoin Rembrandt from proceeding with the Texas Action against CoxCom.

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Attached hereto as Exhibit 2 is a true and correct excerpt of the transcript of the hearing held before United States Bankruptcy Judge Robert E. Gerber of the Southern District of New York in the matter of Rembrandt Technologies, LP v. Adelphia Communications, No. 06-1739.

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March 12, 2007

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Rodger D. Smith II, hereby certify that on March 12, 2007, I caused to be electronically filed **PLAINTIFF COXCOM**, **INC.'S REPLY BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF ITS MOTION TO ENJOIN DEFENDANT FROM PROCEEDING WITH THE TEXAS ACTION** with the Clerk of the Court using CM/ECF, which will send notification of such filing(s) to the following:

Kevin M. Baird
James M. Lennon
WOMBLE CARLYLE SANDRIDGE & RICE, PLLC

and that on March 12, 2007, I caused copies to be served upon the following in the manner indicated:

### **BY EMAIL AND HAND**

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/s/ Rodger D. Smith II

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# EXHIBIT 1

# EXHIBIT 1 SCHEDULE OF DOCSIS ACTIONS FILED BY REMBRANDT

NO.	NAME OF ACTION	DISTRICT COURT	CIVIL ACTION NUMBER
1.	Rembrandt Technologies, LP v. Cablevision Systems Corporation and CSC Holdings, Inc.	District of Delaware	1:06-cv-635
2.	In Re Adelphia Communication Corp. Rembrandt Technologies, LP v. Adelphia Communications Corp. Corporation, Century-TCI California Communications, LP, Century-TCI Distribution Company, LLC, Century-TCI Holdings, LLC, Parnassos, L.P., Parnassos Communications, LP, Parnassos Distribution Company I, LLC, Parnassos Distribution Company II, LLC, Parnassos Holdings, LLC, Western NY Cablevision, LP	Southern District of New York (Bankr. Court and District Court)	Bankr: 02-41729 District: 1:07-cv-214
3.	Rembrandt Technologies, LP v. Comcast Corporation; Comcast Cable Communications, LLC; and Comcast of Plano, LP	Eastern District of Texas	2:05-cv-443
4.	Rembrandt Technologies, LP v. Comcast Corporation; Comcast Cable Communications, LLC; and Comcast of Plano, LP	Eastern District of Texas	2:06-cv-506
5.	Rembrandt Technologies, LP v. Time Warner Cable, Inc.	Eastern District of Texas	2:06-cv-224
6.	Rembrandt Technologies, LP v. Time Warner Cable, Inc.	Eastern District of Texas	2:06-cv-369
7.	Rembrandt Technologies, LP v. Charter Communications, Inc.; Charter Communications Operating, LLC; Cox Communications, Inc., Cox Enterprises, Inc.; CoxCom, Inc.; CSC Holdings, Inc., and Cablevision Systems Corporation	Eastern District of Texas	2:06-cv-223
8.	Rembrandt Technologies, LP v. Charter Communications, Inc.; Charter Communications Operating, LLC, and CoxCom, Inc.	Eastern District of Texas	2:06-cv-507

# EXHIBIT 2

1		ES BANKRUPTCY COURT STRICT OF NEW YORK
2	IN RE:	. Case No. 02-41729
3		
4	ADELPHIA COMMUNICATIONS,	. Tuesday, November 14, 2006
5	Debtors.	. 9:39 a.m.
6	REMBRANDT TECHNOLOGIES, LP,	•
	Plaintiff	· , ·
7	v.	. Adv. Proc. No. 06-1739
8	ADELPHIA COMMUNICATIONS,	•
9	Defendant	
10		•
11		PRETRIAL CONFERENCE
12		RABLE ROBERT E. GERBER ES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE
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APPEARANCES: (Continued) For the Defendant: Shelley Chapman, Esq. Roger Netzer, Esq. Thomas Meloro, Esq. WILLKIE, FARR & GALLAGHER, LLP 787 Seventh Avenue New York, New York 10014 (212) 728-8000 

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(Proceedings commence at 9:39 a.m.)

THE COURT: Okay. We're here on a pretrial conference conference, what I believe is the first pretrial conference in this adversary. I -- Mr. Garrity, I know you and I know some of the folks at the other counsel table. I don't know everybody. Do you want to make some introductions?

MR. GARRITY: I'd be happy to, Your Honor. Good morning. Jim Garrity from Shearman & Sterling. Your Honor, we are co-counsel principally for bankruptcy purposes of Rembrandt Technologies, LP, the plaintiff in this adversary proceeding.

At counsel table with me are Joseph Grinstein and Tibor Nagy. Mr. Grinstein and Mr. Nagy are with the Susman Godfrey firm and they are co-counsel in this matter and when we get to, if Your Honor will allow us a moment or two to talk about the complaint and the matters at issue, I will turn the floor over to them, if that's all right with you.

THE COURT: Okay. Ms. Chapman, I know you and Mr. Netzer. And in between you is?

MS. CHAPMAN: Good morning, Your Honor. In between us is our partner Tom Meloro, who is a patent specialist and who will be addressing the merits, if, as, and when we get to that today.

THE COURT: Okay. I think it would be constructive if we spent just a couple of minutes for you folks to tell me

	Argument - Grinstein 5
1	the underlying issues. It's my impression, very
2	impressionistically, that this is a case for an action for
3	alleged post-petition patent infringement. I don't know if
4	I'm fully correct or not.
5	Mr. Grinstein or Mr. Nagy, you want to give me a
6	more detailed discussion of what it's about?
7	MR. GRINSTEIN: Yes, Your Honor. Joseph Grinstein
8	for plaintiff Rembrandt.
9	Just as an administrative matter, my pro hac
10	admission is pending, but has not been acted on, so
11	THE COURT: Okay. Certainly you can speak today and
12	I have no doubt that it will be granted. Go ahead.
13	MR. GRINSTEIN: Thank you, Your Honor.
14	This is a patent infringement case, as you
15	mentioned. The complaint was filed in September. It relates
16	solely to post-petition alleged infringement by the debtors.
17	By agreement the debtors have not yet answered the complaint.
18	Their answer will be due in a few weeks.
19	THE COURT: Pause, please, Mr. Grinstein.
20	A patent with respect to what kind of a product or
21	technology?
22	MR. GRINSTEIN: There are four patents that are
23	asserted in this case. They relate to the debtors' cable
24	modem services. More specifically, there is a standard by
25	which the entire industry performs cable modem services.

Argument - Grinstein

That standard is called "DOCSIS," d-o-c-s-I-s. It stands for "data over cable system interface specification." It's a lot of words.

That is a standard that all of the cable companies got together in the late 1990s and formed as a way of making sure that each person's or each company's cable modems were compatible with each other; in other words, an industry standard designed to insure efficiency, reliability, compatibility.

The allegation in this case by Rembrandt, the plaintiff, is that the DOCSIS standard infringes four of Rembrandt's patents and, by extension, any cable modem services that the debtors performed that were compliant with the DOCSIS standard, which would have been all of them, by implication therefore also infringed the patents.

THE COURT: Now pause, please.

If the DOCSIS system is uniformly used across the industry, so by way of example I could, you know, go out to a J&R Music World and get a cable modem there and use it on a Time Warner system or a Comcast system, was there anything that Adelphia did unique to the industry or do you have this claim going out against all of the cable companies in the United States?

MR. GRINSTEIN: We're making this claim against other cable companies: Time Warner, Comcast. I'm not sure

Argument - Grinstein if every cable company was yet got to, but we are making this 1 2 claim against other cable companies. The allegation is that Adelphia, by the fact that 3 it's standardized to this industry-wide standard, the 4 industry-wide standard infringes our patents. So as long as 5 Adelphia was compliant with the standard, and there's no 6 7 reason to believe that they weren't compliant with the standard or else their cable modem system would not have 8 worked, they're alleged to have infringed. 9 THE COURT: Now, did I hear you right that you have 10 similar actions pending against other major cable companies? 11 MR. GRINSTEIN: We do, Your Honor. 12 THE COURT: And where are they pending? 13 MR. GRINSTEIN: I believe we have action pending in 14 the eastern district of Texas and I think Delaware as well. 15 Not so sure about -- eastern district of Texas is at least one of them. 17 THE COURT: And they're all being prosecuted 18 19 individually? MR. GRINSTEIN: Yes, Your Honor. 20 THE COURT: Go on. 21 MR. GRINSTEIN: There are four patents at issue in 22 this case. The patents were originally developed by a 23 subsidiary of AT&T/Bell Labs known as Paradyne Corporation. 24 Paradyne was one of the leaders and sort of at the forefront 25

The second area of infringement that we've alleged relates to the 761 patent, and that is a patent that covers

first area of infringement that we've alleged.

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25

Argument - Grinstein 9 the manner by which cable modems communicate error control 1 correction mechanisms. One of the more important things that 2 a cable modem does when it's doing data transmission is 3 control for errors. 4 THE COURT: Well, any modem, cable or otherwise, 5 right? 6 MR. GRINSTEIN: Certainly, Your Honor. And the 7 DOCSIS standard sets out a particular method by which cable 8 9 modem services are supposed to obtain this error control correction mechanism. The 761 patent, we allege, covers that 10 DOCSIS standard. 11 The third distinct patent is the 444 patent. The 12 444 patent covers a particular aspect of data transmission by 13 cable modems. Specifically, it's very important when you're 14 15 THE COURT: Could you repeat that, please, Mr. 16 Grinstein? 17 MR. GRINSTEIN: Yes. It's the 444 patent, and it 18 covers a DOCSIS standard that governs data transmission by 19 modems. More specifically, when you're doing data 20 transmission in a modem, data is transmitted in blocks and 21 chunks. And it's very important that you delimit the 22 beginning and the end of a particular block of data. 23 The 444 patent relates to the DOCSIS standard for 24 delimiting the beginning and the end of a particular data

transmission, and that's particularly critical to exploiting the extent of a potential bandwidth on the system.

So those are the three patents -- actually four patents, but they're related to three areas of technology. We've alleged that DOCSIS infringes those patents and, by implication, the defendant's products that -- products and services, I should say, that utilize DOCSIS.

Where do we stand right now, Your Honor? We -- as I mentioned, we filed the adversary complaint in September.

The defendants have not yet answered the complaint. By agreement, we've extended that answer date for some time.

The parties have engaged in some informal discovery relating to the upcoming confirmation hearing. That informal discovery has been aimed at communicating to the defendants what the aspects of our claim is, what the merits of our claim are. In connection with that informal discovery, there has been a mutual document exchange by both parties. We have produced documents relating to these patents, relating to our allegations. They've produced documents back to us. We have some issues with the extent to which all the documents have been produced to us, but I don't think now is the time or place to discuss those.

We've also engaged in some expert discovery.

Rembrandt has provided to defendants an expert report from a computer scientist expert who has analyzed the patents,

Argument - Grinstein

analyzed the DOCSIS standard, and has opined that the DOCSIS standard infringes these four patents. We provided that to the debtors.

We've also provided an expert report from an expert economist who has analyzed the revenues that these cable modem services have generated for the debtors and has stated a damages claim that he alleges -- he opines is the appropriate damages remedy in this particular case.

THE COURT: What kind of damages you looking for?

MR. GRINSTEIN: We have alleged that, because of
this alleged infringement, in a hypothetical negotiation, the
defendants would have paid to us between a four and fivepercent royalty on cable modem services. I think that ranges
-- ends up ranging from between ninety to \$115 million.

I should say that we've filed the claim seeking \$130 million as our administrative claim. Since we've done some more refined analysis, after having engaged in a little bit of discovery and having talked back and forth with the defendants, we've now since refined that claim to the outside of the claim is I believe \$115 million. Ninety-two to one fifteen. Excuse me.

THE COURT: Okay. Now, I take it against the Adelphia alleged infringers, at least, you're not looking for injunctive relief?

MR. GRINSTEIN: We are not looking for injunctive

Argument - Grinstein

THE COURT: All right. Now, do you have a view or position on the advantages or disadvantages of coordinating this litigation with the actions in the other jurisdictions where similar or identical issues are being raised?

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MR. GRINSTEIN: I have not discussed that with the I think if, you know, Your Honor wanted to other side. coordinate with Judge Ward and reach some sort of mutual claim construction with Judge Ward on one of the aspects of the patent cases to go through a procedure known as a "Markman procedure" where the Court construes the claims of patent. That claim construction probably would be applicable both to Time Warner and to Adelphia to a certain extent, so I think it might be a good idea for you to coordinate with the eastern district of Texas with respect to issues like that. Frankly, we have not discussed that with the other side.

THE COURT: Another option that's not infrequently done in MDL litigation is to coordinate pretrial proceedings, discovery and the like, and then to send the action back to the district in which the underlying claim is pending. you thought about that? Do you have a view on the desirability or undesirability of that?

MR. GRINSTEIN: I think that would be desirable, Your Honor. Candidly, the eastern district of Texas is a very sophisticated patent venue. I won't say most of the patent cases that are getting filed today are filed in that